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April 17, 2006


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : to be assigned
Applicant : YAMAGUCHI, Y. et al.
based on International
Application No. : PCT/JP2003/13181
International Filing Date : October 15, 2003
TC/A.U. : to be assigned
Examiner : to be assigned
Docket No. : KPO-LTT-P4/LTT-83/US
Customer No. : 44702
Title : COMPOSITION CONTAINING RETINOIC ACID NANOPARTICLES
COATED WITH INORGANIC SALT OF POLYVALENT METAL

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop PCT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to the examination of the present application, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-17 (canceled)

18. A composition comprising as an active ingredient retinoic acid nanoparticles comprising micelles of retinoic acid coated with an inorganic salt of polyvalent metal and having an average particle size of 5 to 300 nm.

19. The composition according to claim 18, wherein the polyvalent metal inorganic salt is calcium carbonate, zinc carbonate, or calcium phosphate.

20. The composition according to claim 18 or 19, wherein the retinoic acid nanoparticles are obtained by:

dispersing retinoic acid dissolved in a lower alcohol in an aqueous alkali solution;

adding a nonionic surfactant to the dispersion to form a mixed micelle;

adding to the micelle a halide or acetate of divalent metal along with a carbonate or phosphate of alkali metal so that a molar ratio of the former to the latter is 1:0 to 1:1.0, thereby depositing a coating of the inorganic salt of the polyvalent metal on a surface of the micelle; and

adjusting an average particle size of the resulting nanoparticles to 5 to 300 nm.

21. The composition according to claim 18, wherein the active ingredient is retinoic acid nanoparticles having an average particle size of 5 to 300 nm and coated with calcium carbonate.

22. The composition according to claim 18, wherein the active ingredient is

retinoic acid nanoparticles having an average particle size of 5 to 300 nm and coated with zinc carbonate.

23. The composition according to claim 18, wherein the active ingredient is retinoic acid nanoparticles having an average particle size of 5 to 300 nm and coated with calcium phosphate.

24. The composition according to claims 18 or 19 for use as an oral preparation, a non-oral preparation, an external preparation, or a cosmetic.

25. The composition according to claim 24 being a sustained-release composition.

26. A sustained-release preparation containing as an active ingredient retinoic acid nanoparticles having an average particle size of 5 to 300 nm and coated with calcium carbonate.

27. An external preparation containing as an active ingredient retinoic acid nanoparticles having an average particle size of 5 to 300 nm and coated with calcium carbonate.

28. A cosmetic containing retinoic acid nanoparticles having an average particle size of 5 to 300 nm and coated with calcium carbonate.

29. A sustained-release preparation containing as an active ingredient retinoic acid nanoparticles having an average particle size of 5 to 300 nm and coated with zinc carbonate.

30. An external preparation containing as an active ingredient retinoic acid

nanoparticles having an average particle size of 5 to 300 nm and coated with zinc carbonate.

31. A cosmetic containing retinoic acid nanoparticles having an average particle size of 5 to 300 nm and coated with zinc carbonate.

32. A sustained-release preparation containing as an active ingredient retinoic acid nanoparticles having an average particle size of 5 to 300 nm and coated with calcium phosphate.

33. An external preparation containing as an active ingredient retinoic acid nanoparticles having an average particle size of 5 to 300 nm and coated with calcium phosphate.

34. A cosmetic containing retinoic acid nanoparticles having an average particle size of 5 to 300 nm and coated with calcium phosphate.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims have been rewritten to conform multiply dependent claims to the requirements of the United States patent laws and regulations. Other minor rewrites were also made. The changes from the International Application are purely ministerial and are not meant to affect the scope of the claims as filed. Neither are the amendments made in response to any prior art relevant to the present invention.

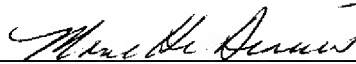
CONCLUSION

If the Examiner has any questions or suggested Examiner's amendments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-3195. A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 17, 2006


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